



United States Department of Agriculture



**CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST  
BEGICH, BOGGS  
VISITOR CENTER**

**Junior Ranger**  
**FIELD NOTEBOOK**

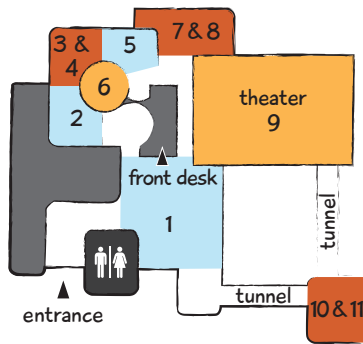


NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Hey Future Ranger!

## Welcome to the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center!

Did you know that you are also in the **Chugach National Forest**? It's the most northerly and westerly national forest in the whole United States! Find where you are on the large wall map near the front desk (North to the Future), then go over to the 3D map display and see if you can find Portage Lake. **That's where you are!** If you have trouble finding it, ask a Ranger to help you.



## Begich, Boggs Visitor Center Map

This map is a bird's eye view of the Visitor Center. Each number matches an activity in an exhibit room. If you have trouble reading it, ask a Ranger to help you!

- ☐ **Activity 1** Where in the World?
- ☐ **Activity 2** Portage Valley
- ☐ **Activity 3** Portage Glacier
- ☐ **Activity 4** Portage Pass
- ☐ **Activity 5** Prince William Sound
- ☐ **Activity 6** Alaska Stories
- ☐ **Activity 7 & 8** Wild Side
- ☐ **Activity 9** "Retreat and Renewal"
- ☐ **Activity 10 & 11** Weather Lab

Complete and mark off at least **five** activities and become a Junior Ranger!

## How Do I Become A Junior Ranger?

Move through the exhibits in the Visitor Center and **complete at least 5 activities** in this field notebook. When you're finished, check your work with a Forest Service Ranger and get sworn in as a Junior Ranger. If you don't finish in time, ask your parents to mail it in. The mailing address is located on the back cover.

Let's get started!



**Hint** Use the rulers on the back cover to add to your field observations!



spotted 6  
feet from  
trail



Largest one was

7 1/2 inches  
long

Bear Tracks



spruce cone

## What is a Field Notebook?

A field notebook is a way for scientists to:

- document what they see in detail
- record questions they have about what they're seeing
- note their experiences while being outside

Look for the places labeled, "Field Notes!" This is your space to be a scientist and capture your adventure in the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center and document what you see on your trip.

Are you up for the task?

## What is a National Forest?

**National Forests** are managed and protected federal lands that are set aside to be used by everyone. They are large expanses of forest and grasslands that are managed by the Forest Service. There are 154 national forests in the U.S. and 2 national forests in Alaska.

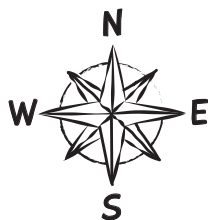


# ACTIVITY

## 1

# Where in the world?

Do you know where you are right now? Find the large 3D map and locate the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center. Using the compass around the edge of the 3D map, find which direction each of the locations below are based on your current location at the **Begich, Boggs Visitor Center**.



Field Notes

**Fun Fact!** A compass rose is a navigational tool that has been used since the 14th century. It shows the cardinal directions—North, South, East and West.

Anchorage \_\_\_\_\_

Copper River Delta \_\_\_\_\_

Kenai Peninsula \_\_\_\_\_

Portage Glacier \_\_\_\_\_

Turnagain Arm \_\_\_\_\_



# Portage Valley

ACTIVITY

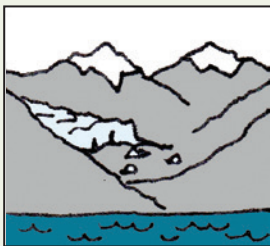
2

After a glacier retreats, plants and animals slowly start to move into the area—this is called **succession**. You can see many different stages of succession in Portage Valley. Today, there are plants, animals and even a visitor center where Portage Glacier used to be!

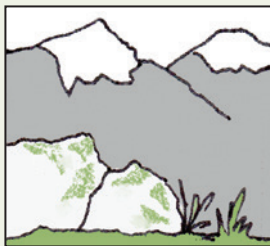
Draw!



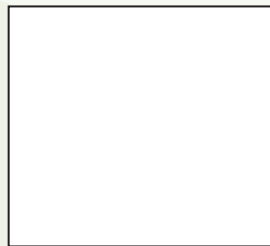
Glacier!



Glacier retreats and exposes rock.



Small plants, like mosses, lichens and grasses grow.



Large plants like trees grow and animals move in.

There are a variety of plants and animals that call Portage Valley home. Take a look at the forest scene on display in the "Portage Valley" room. There are several more critters hidden in the drawing here – how many can you find? Circle them.



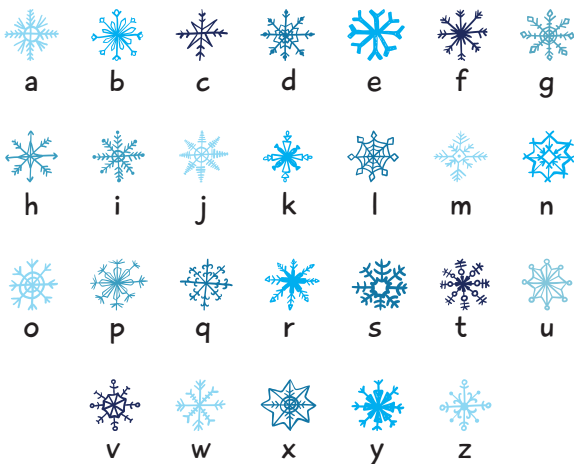
# ACTIVITY

## 3








# Portage Glacier

Glaciers are masters at shaping the landscape. They carve away the earth as they advance and retreat. You can see evidence of their work across the Chugach National Forest.

## Snowflake chart



**Directions:** Use the snowflake chart to decode the message and learn how to identify a glacial carved landscape. Look closely! No two snowflakes are the same.

When a \_\_\_\_\_  








carves the landscape it gives a

" " \_\_\_\_\_ look to  







a valley. This is different from a

\_\_\_\_\_ cutting  






the landscape, which creates

a " " \_\_\_\_\_  







Field Notes

Now use the snowflake alphabet to send other secret messages to your friends and family about what you saw in Portage Valley!

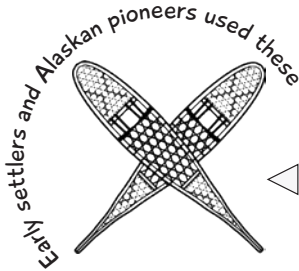


# Portage Pass

## ACTIVITY 4

For centuries Portage Pass has linked Prince William Sound to Portage Valley and the interior of Alaska. All kinds of travel occurs through Portage Pass every year. Each picture below shows a different method of travel.

**Directions:** Based on the picture, fill in the blanks with each word you think is being shown. When you're done, see what the letters in the circles spell out.

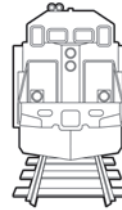


\_\_\_\_\_



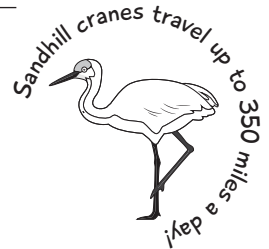
\_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



s \_\_\_\_\_ g w \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Portage Pass is an important transportation

\_\_\_\_\_

Final Word

# ACTIVITY 5

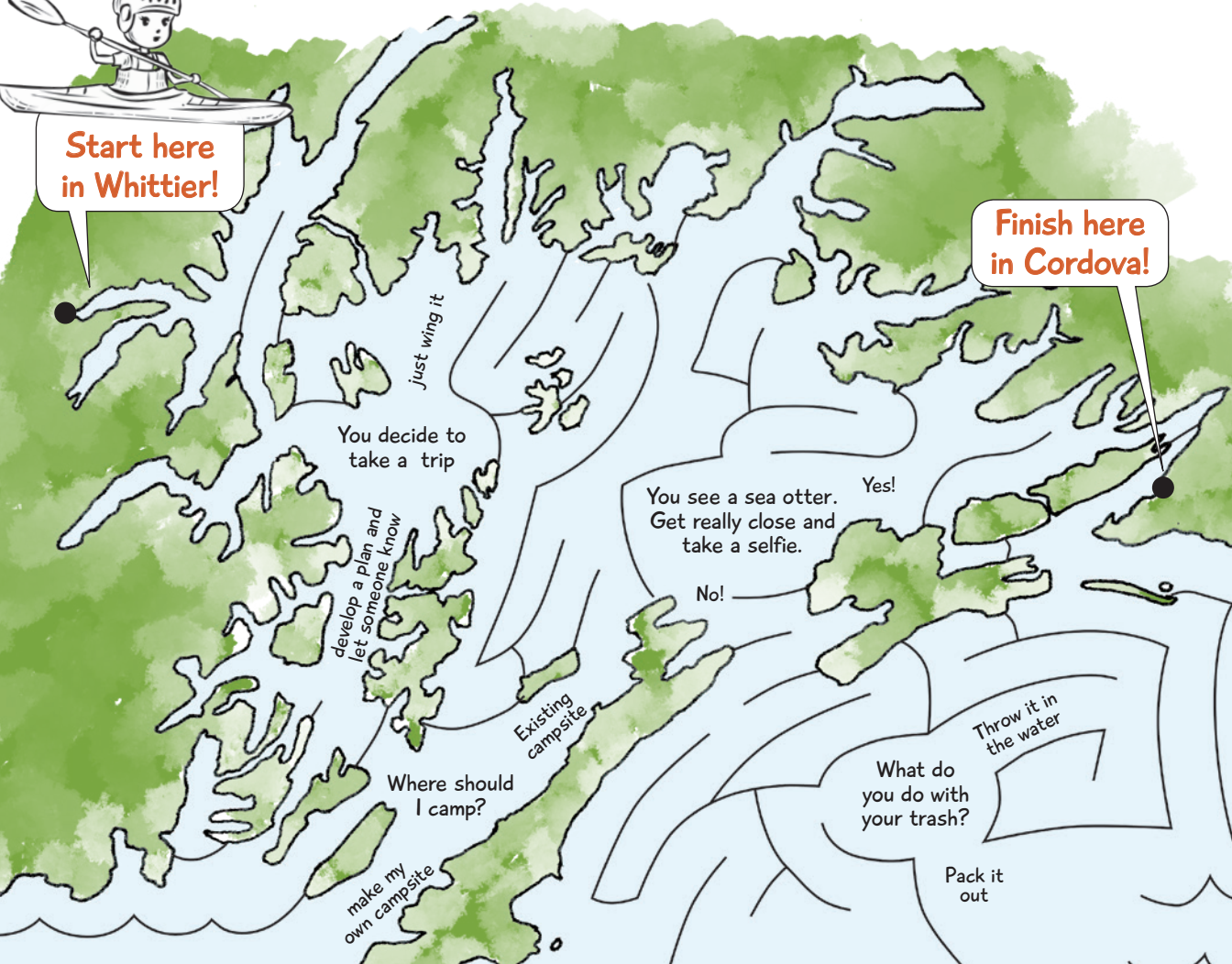
## Prince William Sound

Practicing **Leave No Trace** principles helps us tread lightly on the landscape. Pretend you are kayaking from Whittier to Cordova. You'll need to make important decisions along the way in order to get to your destination. Use the Leave No Trace principles at the bottom to help guide your choices. **Choose wisely!**



Start here  
in Whittier!

Finish here  
in Cordova!



### Leave No Trace Seven Principles



Plan ahead and prepare • Minimize campfire impacts • Leave what you find • Travel and camp on durable surfaces • Respect wildlife  
Dispose of waste properly • Be considerate of visitors



# Alaska Stories

**Every adventure creates a story!** Your trip to the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center and the Chugach National Forest will be a fun memory to share! **Create a comic** and try out your story telling skills!



\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were on a hike along  
(name 1) (name 2)  
the \_\_\_\_\_ trail. After \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
(noun) (verb + ing) (number)  
hours, they decided to take a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun)

While they  
were snacking  
on \_\_\_\_\_,  
(noun)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name 2)  
noticed they  
weren't alone.

Look, a

\_\_\_\_\_!  
(noun)

Oh, \_\_\_\_\_! I've  
(adjective)  
never seen one before.

After \_\_\_\_\_, they \_\_\_\_\_ along  
(verb present -ing) (verb past tense)  
the trail and passed a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(plural noun)

Hey \_\_\_\_\_,  
(name 1)  
do you have the  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(plural noun)?

\_\_\_\_\_ looks in his \_\_\_\_\_.  
(name 1) (noun)

"Uh oh! I think  
I forgot them!"

When they  
arrived at the  
camp for the  
night, \_\_\_\_\_  
(name 2)  
started to set up  
the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun)

# ACTIVITY

## 7

# Wild Side

Explore the exhibits to learn more about all the animals that call the Chugach National Forest home. Many different types of habitats can be found on the forest.

**Fun Fact!** A **habitat** is a place that provides food, water and shelter for an animal, plant or organism.

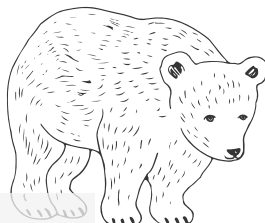
**Directions:** Which animal is your favorite? Pick one and complete the profile below.

## Forestbook Profile



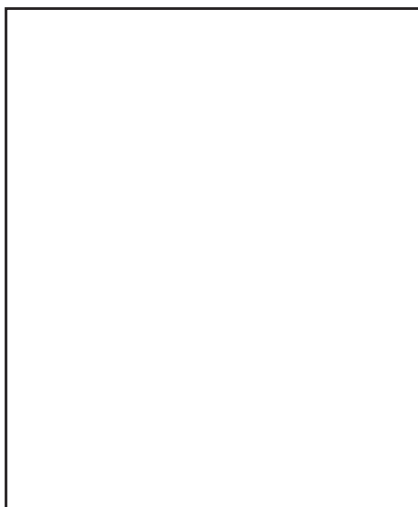
Name: Wolf  
Weight: 85-115 lbs  
Favorite things:  
Being a carnivore

## Forestbook Profile



Name: Black Bear  
Weight: 180-200 lbs  
Favorite things: Salmon, berries, tasty insects

## Forestbook Profile



Picture

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Things: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracks: \_\_\_\_\_





ACTIVITY

8

**Fun Fact!** The Copper River Delta is part of the Pacific Flyway, which is 1 of 3 major shorebird migration routes.

## Wild Side

**Migration** is when animals, birds or fish move from one region to another during different times of the year. The **Chugach National Forest** provides important habitats for many different migratory species.

**Directions:** Find the migration globe. Match the animal icon on the left with its migration route and try to place the new additions based on their descriptions.



**Salmon** There are five different types of salmon that migrate from fresh water to salt water and back. The Chugach National Forest provides important habitat for more than 10% of all Pacific Salmon.



**Western sandpiper** Nearly the entire Pacific coast population of these birds come through the Copper River Delta to refuel on their way to more northern nesting grounds.



**Arctic Tern** See migration route on globe. These birds have the longest yearly migration of any bird—nearly 25,000 miles!



**Hummingbird** See migration route on the globe. A Rufous hummingbird was banded in Florida and captured for identification in the Chugach National Forest. That's a long way for a tiny bird!!



**Hooligan** These small, oily fish migrate from salt water to fresh water and have a large run near Portage Valley! They are also nicknamed "candle fish."

# ACTIVITY

# 9

## "Retreat and Renewal"

The Chugach National Forest is constantly adjusting to **change**—both natural and man-made. Watch the movie, *Retreat and Renewal*, to learn about the resiliency of the National Forest.

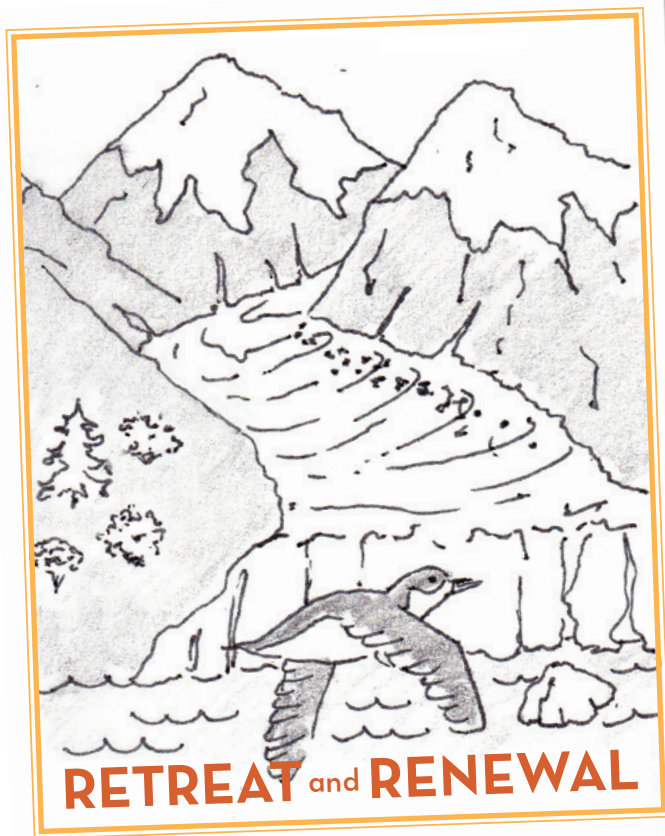
Compare the two movie posters and find the differences between them. Are there any changes that you recognize from the movie?

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Field Notes

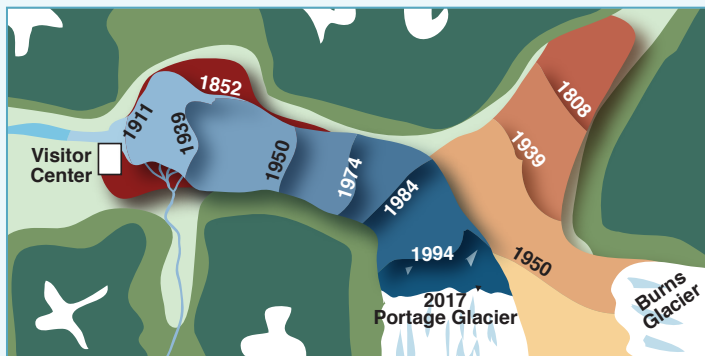




# Weather Lab

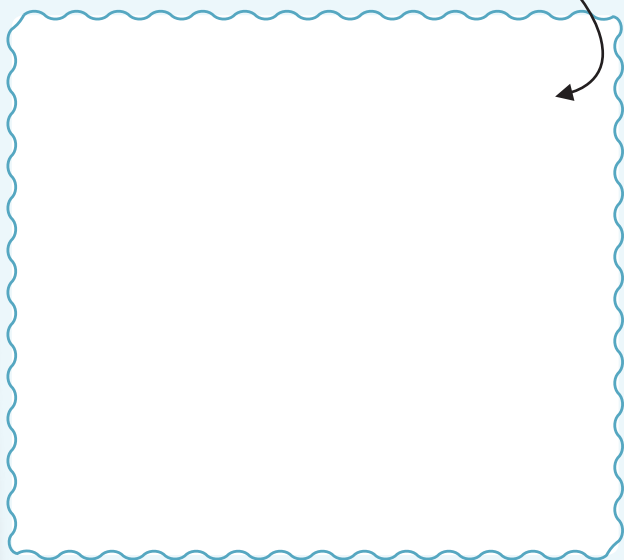
## ACTIVITY 10

**Glaciers** are rivers of ice formed when snow does not melt from one year to the next. They actually “flow” like a very slow moving river.



**Directions:** At one time, Portage Glacier actually filled the valley that you’re in right now. As it retreated it carved out the u-shaped valley that you see today. Travel back in time! Pick a date found on the diagram and pretend you traveled back to a day in that year. Based on where you’re standing in the Visitor Center, what would the view look like and where would the glacier be?

Draw!



### Glacial Ice

Glacier ice is formed under the weight of many snowfalls, which squeeze out most of the air. This leaves dense, compact ice.



### Field Notes

# ACTIVITY

## 11

# Weather Lab

Portage Valley sees all kinds of wild and wacky weather! As clouds rise over the Chugach and Kenai Mountains, they drop lots of rain and snow in Portage Valley. High winds also roar through Portage Valley at times.

**Fun Fact!** **Weather** is a specific event—like a rainstorm—the happens over a short time.  
**Climate** is the average of weather conditions over a long period of time.

**Directions:** Show what the weather is like today in Portage Valley and at your house. Is it the same? Different? Why do you think that might be?

## What's the weather like today?

Portage Valley

**Date:**

**Time:**

**Season:**

**Temp:**

**Today's Weather Looks Like:**

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**

**Time:**

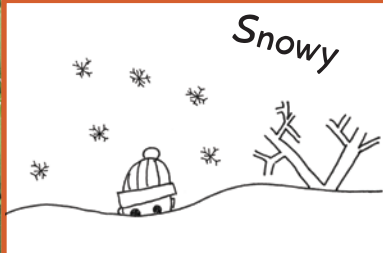
**Season:**

**Temp:**

**Today's Weather Looks Like:**

Sometimes the weather in Portage Valley can be...

Snowy



Rainy



Windy



# Begich, Boggs Visitor Center Chugach National Forest Junior Ranger

## JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

As a Junior Ranger, I,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
promise to help protect the  
Chugach National Forest, my  
community, and the environment.  
I will explore the natural world and  
discover other cultures  
wherever I go.



\_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Forest Service Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





## My Favorite Part of the Begich Boggs Visitor Center:

Produced by **Chugach National Forest** Designed by **Christine Vanderbeek**  
Illustrations by **Anita Koelsch** (bear tracks, fireweed, pine cone, weather), **Madeline Hamby**  
(hand lettering) Photos by **iStock** (Alesikka, flower; attaphong, train), **Shutterstock**  
(artnLena, snowflakes; basel101658, hooligan; CySpk, notebook; DerGriza, kayaker, hiker;  
Shapovalova Elena, fireweed; GooseFrol, wolf and bear; kbibibi, eagle; Kiwi Innovation,  
Alaska state map; Koshevnyk, sandpiper; Olga Kovalenko, notebook; KUCO, dog team; lazy  
clouds, world map; Maquiladora, sandhill crane; primiaou, car; Refluo, salmon; saraporn, glacial  
ice; Diego Schtutman, compass rose; SmileStudio, rulers; Sunshine Vector, arctic tern; Tosoph,  
map; ulia\_color, hummingbird; Vishnevskiy Vasily, bear; Yayayoyo, eagle comic)

Mailing address **BBVC Junior Ranger; P.O. Box 129; Girdwood, AK 99587**



inches

centimeters